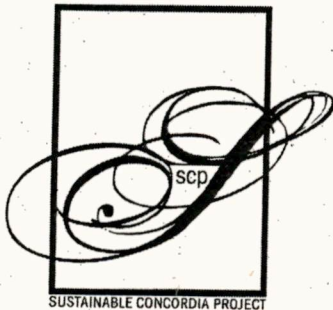


Towards a sustainable Concordia

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SUSTAINABILITY COORDINATOR

Sustainability = “meeting the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.” (from *The Brundtland Commission on Sustainable Development*, 1987)

In practice at Concordia, this means taking an integrated, holistic approach to process, decision-making and action in ecological, social and economic spheres.



Mission Statement of the Sustainable Concordia Project

The Sustainable Concordia Project (SCP) aims to make Concordia a more sustainable university community. It is a framework for empowering campus community members to engage in issues relating to sustainability they feel passionate about, which will enhance the community. The SCP's multistakeholder approach, which involves diverse members of the campus community, is built on a foundation of establishing mutual trust and understanding through dialogue and persistence, such that effective communication is possible and creative problem-solving flourishes. The SCP is committed to non-hierarchical, respectful exchanges.

Through facilitating input and enabling access to resources, the SCP acts as a nexus for campus community members to address challenges faced by the community, as a community.

Prepared by Melissa Garcia Lamarca
Sustainability Coordinator, Environmental Health and Safety
August 2005

Executive summary

The past year has seen a significant amount of growth and development of sustainability at Concordia. The different players involved in the Sustainable Concordia Project – administrators, faculty, students, staff – have completed their third year of work towards making Concordia a more ecologically, socially and economically sustainable university and building relationships and dialogue through a multi-stakeholder approach. The hiring of a full-time Sustainability Coordinator through the Environmental Health and Safety Office in July 2004, a position which facilitates and coordinates sustainability initiatives on campus among other activities, has also enabled a significant amount of work, partnerships and initiatives to take root from the administrative level.

Many of the past year's activities grew out of recommendations from the 2003 Concordia Campus Sustainability Assessment, a report launched in February 2004 that profiled Concordia's social, ecological and economic practices and articulated recommendations on how to become more sustainable, while others developed in response to interests and needs of university community members and/or broader local, regional, national and international activity. Some achievements to highlight include the production of a draft Environmental Policy for Concordia; the development and completion of phase one and entry into the implementation phase of the allégo Concordia program to encourage alternatives to single occupancy vehicle transportation to and from Concordia; a partnership with the city of Montreal in their strategic plan for sustainable development; a waste and recycling audit to provide baseline data to develop a business plan and strategy to reduce waste production; Concordia's first Sustainable Business Conference with over 250 participants; and an overwhelming "yes" vote for a 5 cent per credit fee levy for the Sustainable Concordia student group, which illustrates the strong support for sustainability amongst the Concordia student body. Another notable achievement is the creation of a one-year full-time contract for an R⁴ Coordinator, whose mandate goes beyond recycling and promotes the 4 Rs: Rethink, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. This position, alongside the financial support received from Facilities Management in August 2005 to fund a recycling upgrade and retrofit and the initial costs of a university-wide compost system, will allow the R⁴ Concordia program to be extensively and effectively developed and in turn will lead to a concrete decrease in the university's environmental impact.

Some of the challenges identified over the past year include the environment-heavy focus of sustainability at Concordia; finding the most effective manner to convey the poly-dimensionality and complexity of the Sustainable Concordia Project within the compartmentalized institution that is Concordia; engaging Concordia employees in sustainability in their day-to-day work; the continued absence of programs relating to sustainability in Concordia's John Molson School of Business; and the lack of an integrated, broad spectrum approach in Human Resources's Wellness initiative.

Actions planned for the Sustainability Coordinator over this academic year include the articulation of a sustainability framework for Concordia, a critical tool to aid in moving sustainability forward at the university at all levels; a Sustainability Ambassadors program geared towards Concordia employees; and implementation of the Environmental Policy for Concordia. The R⁴ Coordinator will advance the R⁴ Concordia program and make concrete steps to reduce the university community's environmental impact through a recycling system upgrade and retrofit, a campus composting initiative and a university-wide outreach and awareness campaign. The Sustainable Concordia student group will hold its first General Assembly to elect a board of directors and adopt a code of conduct and a constitution, and will be conducting the next Concordia Campus Sustainability Assessment over the coming academic year.

The support and commitment coming from multiple levels of the university places us in a strong position to continue moving forward in implementation and action towards a more sustainable Concordia.

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Structure of report

This report has two sections: the first is the annual report of the Sustainability Coordinator, consisting of a brief summary of activities, a discussion of notable successes and outstanding challenges, and an outline of the action plan for the coming academic year. The second component of the report outlines the activities of all players in the Sustainable Concordia Project, including initiatives driven by the Sustainability Coordinator, the R⁴ Coordinator, Faculty and the Sustainable Concordia student group.

Introduction

At present, the need to take action towards a more sustainable future is becoming ever more pressing and urgent. Further scientific consensus on climate change and ecosystem degradation has emerged over the past year: in the Millennium Ecosystems Assessment, a four-year study that has been the most comprehensive survey ever into the state of the planet, nearly 1,400 scientists in 95 countries stated *that 60% of the planet's ecosystem services are currently being degraded by human activities*. Such findings –coupled with other realities including rising oil prices, continuing global conflicts connected to natural resource extraction and facts such as that the 356 richest families on the planet enjoy a combined wealth exceeding the annual income of 40% of the human race– are only a few of the factors that continue to illustrate the need for action towards sustainability.

Recognising the need to act in our own community, work on sustainability at Concordia began through the Sustainable Concordia Project (SCP) in 2002. The different players involved – administrators, faculty, students, staff – have completed their third year of work towards making Concordia a more ecologically, socially and economically sustainable university and building relationships and dialogue through a multi-stakeholder approach.

The past year has seen a significant amount of growth and development of sustainability at Concordia. The hiring of a full-time Sustainability Coordinator through the Environmental Health and Safety Office in July 2004 has enabled a significant amount of work, partnerships and initiatives to take root from the administrative level. A few of the responsibilities of the Sustainability Coordinator include coordinating the review and evaluation of recommendations made in the 2003 Concordia Campus Sustainability Assessment; coordinating and facilitating sustainability initiatives; liaising with university service departments to promote sustainability initiatives in decision making and operations and networking with local, regional and international sustainability-related initiatives, among others.

At other levels of the SCP, the Sustainable Concordia student group has continued to work on broad-reaching projects, campaigns and awareness-raising events. Faculty have participated through developing programs and curricula and allowing students to do work for credit; staff are getting involved with sustainability by starting committees to integrate sustainability in the operation of their departments and sectors and reducing the impact of their day-to-day office operations.

Work towards building more sustainable university campuses is happening across Canada, North America and the world. Concordia stands in a unique position in that sustainability work started as a student driven initiative with university-wide collaboration, and the fact that action is now happening at the administrative and other levels is an exciting sign, as work and collaboration needs to happen at multiple levels of a system to affect change. Campus sustainability initiatives are not a trend but rather part of a larger movement of institutions recognising the need for change, to reduce our ecological impact and create a more equitable world for future generations.

Summary of activities

Many of the past year's activities grew out of recommendations from the 2003 Concordia Campus Sustainability Assessment, a report launched in February 2004 that profiled Concordia's social, ecological and economic practices and articulated recommendations on how to become more sustainable.¹ The Sustainability Coordinator spent significant time over the past year communicating with staff throughout Concordia regarding recommendations in their domain, discussing the current status of the issue and the potential for action. A review of the assessment's 138 recommendations by the Sustainability Coordinator in July 2005 revealed that 30% are either well on the way to implementation or in progress; 25% require further research; 36% of recommendations are potential projects for 2005-2006 and 9% are no longer applicable or not feasible at present.

Other activities coordinated by the Sustainability Coordinator over the past year developed in response to interests and needs of university community members and/or broader local, regional, national and international activity. The main initiatives include the development and completion of phase one and entry into the implementation phase of the allégo Concordia program to encourage alternatives to single occupancy vehicle transportation to and from Concordia; a partnership with the city of Montreal in their strategic plan for sustainable development; participation in CREPUQ with staff from universities across Quebec responsible for environment and sustainable development in their respective institutions; submitting feedback on the province of Quebec's sustainable development plan; participation on the steering committee of the Northeastern Campus Sustainability Coalition and on an environmental indicators project with various other institutional coalition members; participation in the working group of the *Milton Parc : laboratoire de développement durable* project with the *Société de Développement Communautaire de Montréal*; and a greenhouse gas emissions inventory of Concordia. The Sustainability Coordinator also gave numerous presentations and workshops at Concordia and conferences in Canada and the United States. Please note that all activities are detailed further in this report; please see page 3, under 'Initiatives driven by the Sustainability Coordinator' for a complete list.

A final important activity that requires mention is the Sustainable Enterprise Academy at the Schulich School of Business in York University, attended by the Sustainability Coordinator and Director of Environmental Health and Safety in May 2005. This intensive four day program focussed on providing the vision, education, tools and support needed for senior executives in business, government and civil society to champion sustainability in their institutions. From this seminar, the Sustainability Coordinator recognised that Concordia requires a clear framework for sustainability in order to function in a more integrated and effective fashion. This framework is being developed in early Fall 2005.

Notable successes

There have been numerous successes over the past year that deserve mention. During fall 2004, an Environmental Policy was drafted for Concordia by the Sustainability Coordinator and feedback was solicited and incorporated from many actors on campus, including Purchasing Services, Internal Audit, Facilities Management, the Environmental Health and Safety Office, the University Secretariat, and all active members of the Sustainable Concordia Project, among others. The policy confirms and develops Concordia's commitments as a signatory to the Talloires Declaration – a ten-point action plan signed by President Lowy in 1995 for universities to incorporate environmental sustainability and environmental literacy in teaching, research, operations and outreach – and will place the institution on par at the policy level with other universities in Quebec who all have official Environmental Policies. Once adopted, policy implementation at Concordia will begin through the creation of an Environmental Management System to centralise environmental reporting and compliance and to build a basis for future work on environmental issues on campus.

External recognition and visibility for Concordia's innovative work on sustainability has continued to grow over the past year. The university became a partner in the city of Montreal's strategic plan for sustainable

¹ Please see <http://web2.concordia.ca/sustainability/assessment.html> to view the 2003 Concordia Campus Sustainability Assessment.

development in April 2005, committing to undertake five of the 24 actions outlined by the city; these are all well underway to implementation. In a similar vein, the Sustainability Coordinator's participation in the CREPUQ environment and sustainable development working group and in the Northeastern Campus Sustainability Coalition has been valuable in both learning and sharing sustainability-related work underway at Concordia and elsewhere. The Sustainability Coordinator has also been asked to sit on the working group for the *Société de Développement Communautaire de Montréal's* project entitled *Milton Parc : laboratoire de développement durable*, the first initiative to pilot neighbourhood/community sustainability in Montreal. Such partnerships and relationships continue to raise Concordia's profile and, along with the numerous presentations and workshops given by the Sustainability Coordinator in Canada and the United States, contribute to build Concordia's reputation for work on sustainability across the province, region and country.

Another notable achievement is the creation of a one-year full-time contract for an R⁴ Coordinator, whose mandate goes beyond recycling and promotes the 4 Rs: Rethink, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. This position, alongside the financial support received from Facilities Management in August 2005 to fund a recycling upgrade and retrofit and the initial costs of a university-wide compost system, will allow the R⁴ Concordia program to be extensively and effectively developed and in turn a concrete decrease in the university's environmental impact.

At the student level, a particularly noteworthy achievement is an overwhelming "yes" vote for a 5 cent per credit fee levy for the Sustainable Concordia student group, which illustrates the strong support for sustainability from the Concordia student body.

The support and commitment to make Concordia a more sustainable institution coming from multiple levels of the university places us in a strong position to continue moving forward in implementation and action.

Outstanding challenges

One constant challenge over the past year has been that many sustainability-related activities at Concordia were mostly environment focussed, with less work on the social and economic components of sustainability. This is largely due to the fact that ecological initiatives – specifically around material use, recycling and waste reduction – were not well developed before sustainability-related work began on campus, and furthermore tend to be easier to enact because their impact is more easily understood, measurable and often have direct cost savings. The social and economic spheres are more challenging but equally important, and critical to work on in order to begin achieving broad spectrum sustainability.

Another challenge has been finding the most effective manner to convey the poly-dimensionality and complexity of the Sustainable Concordia Project within the compartmentalized institution that is Concordia. Change towards sustainability requires working across boundaries, sectors and departments to see the university as a system, using the expertise and knowledge of the community, building relationships, and shaping solutions accordingly. Finding the language to make the big picture understood to everyone in the university community, especially decision-makers, in terms that are relevant to their experience and position in the university is a crucial hurdle to overcome, and part of the plan for 2005-2006.

Due in part to this fact, another challenge has been engaging Concordia employees in sustainability in their day-to-day work, a critical activity needed in order to reduce our impact since a great deal of our office habits such as paper use and energy use have a multiplier effect at the larger scale. Reducing the university's impact requires the help and effort of all members of the university community.

At the academic level, a significant concern is the continued absence of programmes relating to sustainability in Concordia's John Molson School of Business (JMSB). In order to properly prepare JMSB graduates for the challenges that their generation and those after will face in their work vis-à-vis resource degradation and depletion and social and economic inequities, it is vital that sustainability be integrated into course content at the business school. It is also important to note that incorporating such learning into the curriculum will maintain

the Faculty's competitiveness amongst other programs, as this is becoming more and more recognised as crucial knowledge for future business leaders.

Regarding employee well-being at Concordia, Human Resources's Wellness initiative in May 2005 lacked an integrated, broad spectrum approach to the subject matter. It is an important and deeply needed program, but requires development and support from a committee of diverse stakeholders from different sectors of the university, including students. This will ensure that a program adapted and responsive to the needs of the Concordia community is developed.

Action plan

The first two challenges outlined above – the environment-heavy focus of sustainability over the past year and effectively conveying the complexity of sustainability work at Concordia – will be addressed through the creation of a sustainability framework for Concordia. This will be done in early Fall 2005 with the aid of the multi-stakeholder Sustainable Concordia Project advisory committee, a body which brings together faculty, staff, administrators and students to help develop strategy, share expertise and facilitate the exchange of information among participants in the project. Such a clearly articulated framework will be a critical tool to aid in moving sustainability forward at Concordia at all levels.

To respond to the third challenge outlined above, that is engaging Concordia employees in sustainability, one of the Sustainability Coordinator's projects for the coming year is developing a Sustainability Ambassadors program. The truth is that initiatives towards sustainability take place every day at Concordia, through the actions of university community members promoting ecological integrity, social equity and economic prosperity. Building on best practices from other universities, the Sustainability Ambassadors program aims to establish a framework for coordinating these actions while encouraging values at the base of sustainable development: respect for each other and the environment and responsibility for actions in our community.

This year the Sustainability Coordinator will also work on Environmental Policy implementation, starting with actively participating in the creation of an Environmental Management System (EMS) for Concordia. This will serve to centralise environmental reporting requirements for systemisation and clarity, and will form the basis of Concordia's fledgling environment program including energy efficiency and R⁴ Concordia, among others. In this fashion Concordia will meet and move beyond both the commitments made in the Talloires Declaration – a plan signed in 1995 for universities to incorporate environmental sustainability and environmental literacy in teaching, research, operations and outreach – and the partnership with the city of Montreal on its strategic plan for sustainable development. In the long-term, the goal is to extend this EMS into a broader Sustainability Management System (SMS).

Finally, with a full-time R⁴ Coordinator position in place, the R⁴ Concordia (rethink, reduce, reuse, recycle) program stands to make concrete steps to diminish the waste generated by Concordia through a recycling system upgrade and retrofit, a campus composting initiative and a university-wide outreach and awareness campaign. The recycling retrofit will consist primarily of improved signage and an increase in the number of recycling bins available on campus, with the goal of increasing usage, improving efficiency, and providing a uniform and easily understood system to campus community members. The campus-wide composting initiative will build a system to collect and compost organic material from a variety of locations at Loyola and SGW through 3 year research project to be conducted by a Concordia Masters student and supervised by three Concordia professors. Funding for these two projects has been approved by Facilities Management, and implementation will begin in fall 2005 alongside a university-wide environmental outreach and awareness campaign.

Structure of the Sustainable Concordia Project

The Sustainable Concordia Project (SCP) began in July 2002 as a student-driven initiative supported by university-wide participation, with the objective of making Concordia more ecologically, socially and economically sustainable.

While this objective has remained the same, the project has developed and grown since its inception and its structure has, in turn, become more complex. A critical element underlying the SCP's structure is its multi-stakeholder approach, engaging students, faculty, staff and administrators to work together to address issues related to sustainability in the Concordia community. This is fundamental because progress towards sustainability requires that we see the university as a system where solutions reach across boundaries. Working with multiple stakeholders, each with their respective knowledge and expertise ultimately allows an institution to achieve a higher level of social and environmental performance as its community has learned how to communicate and work together for more viable, flexible and long-term strategies.

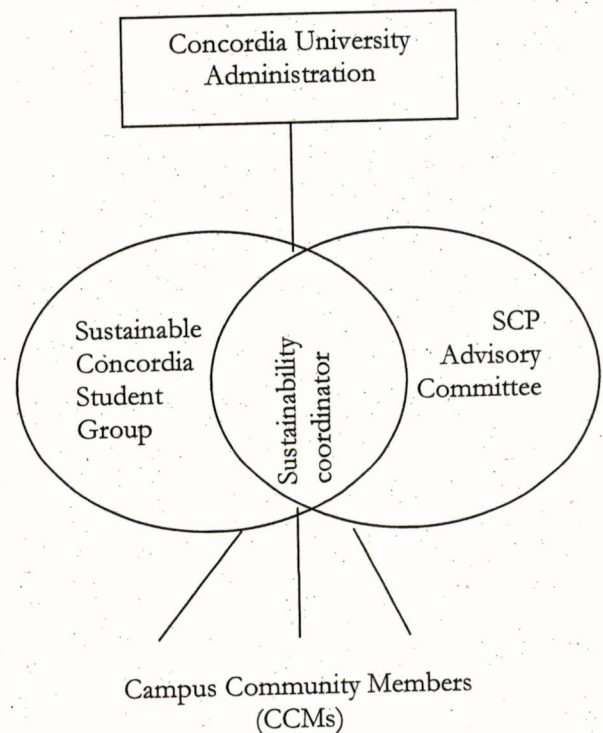
The Sustainable Concordia Project therefore operates at many levels in the university.

Since July 2004, the **Sustainability Coordinator** has acted as a facilitator in the university's move towards sustainability and as a nexus point for the different components of the SCP. Apart from working to coordinate the implementation of the recommendations from the Concordia Campus Sustainability Assessment (CCSA) in all sectors of the university, the Sustainability Coordinator also coordinates and aids in project implementation, drafts policy, gives presentations and workshops about the SCP and its process and networks with other projects and initiatives locally, regionally, nationally and internationally.

The **Sustainable Concordia student group**, an affiliated group of QPIRG-Concordia, is aiming to engage other students and alumni in the SCP, to educate the Concordia community on issues of campus and global sustainability, to implement specific recommendations from the CCSA and to enact sustainability related projects at Concordia. Thanks to many collaborating faculty, students are also involved through academic projects for course work related credit. This fall students will engage the Concordia community in a General Assembly, at which point the group plans to formally adopt a Constitution and a code of conduct.

The **SCP Advisory Committee** provides a convergence point for administrators from different sectors, faculty from a range of academic disciplines, students from different disciplines and levels of study, and staff from various service departments. The advisory committee has been meeting twice a semester and helps develop strategy, share expertise and facilitate the exchange of information among participants in the project.

To be formally added to the mix this fall is the **R⁴ Coordinator** – rethink, reduce, reuse, recycle – who will facilitate the R⁴ Concordia program. In the realm of sustainability, R⁴ efforts are focused around environmental initiatives while integrating social and economic components in the process. As a working group of SCP, the mission of R⁴ is to promote the re-thinking of our daily waste output, as well as reducing, reusing and recycling as much waste at Concordia University as possible. The R⁴ Coordinator's main projects include a recycling system retrofit and upgrade, a large-scale composting project and a university-wide educational program.



While many projects, campaigns and initiatives in 2004-2005 grew out of recommendations made in the Concordia Campus Sustainability Assessment 2003, many others emerged in response to interests and needs of university community members as well as broader activity locally, regionally, nationally and internationally. Brief reports on these activities are discussed below, divided in four sections: initiatives driven by the Sustainability Coordinator; initiatives driven by the R⁴ Coordinator; initiatives driven by the Sustainable Concordia student group and initiatives driven by Faculty.

INITIATIVES DRIVEN BY THE SUSTAINABILITY COORDINATOR

Concordia Campus Sustainability Assessment (CCSA) 2003 recommendation review

One of the responsibilities of the Sustainability Coordinator involved coordinating the review and evaluation of the 138 recommendations made in the 2003 Concordia Campus Sustainability Assessment, in discussion and collaboration with appropriate university sectors. The Coordinator has spent a significant amount of time over the past year meeting with relevant members of the university community to assess the situation of each recommendation to date in order to evaluate and categorise them.

Highlights from the final review of the recommendations include:

- Almost 30% of recommendations are either well on the way to implementation (11%) or in progress (19%). Some examples of the first include using automatic lighting sensors to shut off lights when rooms are not occupied (Health and Well-Being chapter); reactivating 1) the Recycling Committee and 2) the CSU Senate of Faculty Associations (Governance chapter); developing new services for responding to feedback from Faculties and departments to assist in meeting their teaching needs (Knowledge chapter) and conducting a solid waste audit to understand the composition of Concordia's waste (Materials chapter). Examples of recommendations in progress are: including information on unwanted pregnancies and conjugal violence in annual Health fairs by Health Services (Health and Well-Being chapter); an initiative to aid students transitioning from a non-western academic tradition to a western academic environment (Community chapter); an Environmental Policy for Concordia (Governance chapter) and reporting on the university's greenhouse gas emissions and developing a long-term strategy towards carbon neutrality (Air chapter).
- Close to 25% of recommendations require further research in the next Concordia Campus Sustainability Assessment. This involves obtaining more detailed information on, for example, diversity at Concordia (Community chapter), on the availability and quality of sustainability-related course content throughout all Faculties (Knowledge chapter), a survey to determine the percentage of students using a student line of credit from the bank (Economy and Wealth chapter) or financing and logistics of a geothermal energy system at Loyola (Energy chapter).
- 36% of recommendations are potential projects for 2005-2006. Some examples include a digital archive project to record Fine Arts students' work (Community chapter); collaboration between the Graduate Student Association, the Centre for Teaching and Learning Services and Faculties to develop a formalised mentorship program (Knowledge chapter); reading water meters on buildings at Loyola to monitor and track consumption rates (Water chapter) and a thorough assessment of green space at Loyola (Land chapter).
- About 9% of recommendations are no longer applicable or not feasible at present: for example, access to alternative health care practitioners on campus (Health and Well-Being chapter); an annual vernissage to display Fine Arts students' top work (Community chapter) and several recommendations relating to the Quartier Concordia process (Land chapter).

Please contact the Sustainability Coordinator if you would like a copy of the reviewed recommendations. She is also available to discuss the recommendations, the 2003 Concordia Campus Sustainability Assessment, and other issues or points of interest related to the university's journey towards sustainability.

Environmental Policy

The Sustainability Coordinator drafted an Environmental Policy for Concordia in the fall of 2004. Feedback was solicited from many actors on campus, including Purchasing Services, Internal Audit, Facilities Management, the Environmental Health and Safety Office, the University Secretariat, students on the Sustainable Concordia Project's listserve (over 200 members) and all active members of the Sustainable Concordia Project, among others. It was presented to the Central Advisory Health and Safety Committee in December 2004, and a finalised version was given to the Vice-President, Services in March 2005. Implementation will begin upon its adoption by the university.

allégo Concordia



The allégo program is an initiative of the *Agence Métropolitaine de Transport* (AMT), as mandated by the Quebec Ministry of Transportation. Driven by issues relating to air quality, health concerns and climate change, allégo is a framework for encouraging institutions to increase alternative transportation use, based on an analysis of the accessibility of the workplace and commuting habits of employees. By gaining a clear understanding of the current situation, effective and responsive solutions can be developed which address the unique needs of the institution.

The allégo Concordia program – whose broad aim is to increase the use of alternates to single occupancy vehicle trips to and from the university – has been coordinated by the Sustainability Coordinator in conjunction with Facilities Management since January 2005. It has a \$70,000 budget, and an active committee of faculty, staff and students who provide resources, creative ideas and direction for the program.

After the formation of the committee, the first phase of the program, from January to May 2005, consisted of two parts: a survey of the entire university community to understand transportation habits and needs and the production of an accessibility profile outlining the transportation infrastructure at Concordia. The next and current phase of allégo Concordia involves selecting, developing and implementing specific initiatives – such as improved bicycle facilities, or a carpooling program, among others – which will include a promotion and outreach strategy and educational materials. These initiatives will be launched in fall 2005. For more information on this and the overall program, please visit <http://allego.concordia.ca>.

Partnerships and government relations

City of Montreal Strategic Plan for Sustainable Development

In April 2005, the Vice-President Services signed Concordia as an official partner with the city of Montreal on their strategic plan for sustainable development. Out of a total of 24 actions outlined by the city for the start-up phase (2005-2006), Concordia has committed to undertake the following five actions over the coming year:

- Action 1.6: Bolster bicycle infrastructure
- Action 1.8: Implement measures at the workplace to encourage sustainable transport
- Action 1.14: Implement waste reduction and recovery measures in industries, businesses and institutions
- Action 1.19: Put in place measures to increase energy efficiency
- Action 1.21: Implement an environmental management system

These are all actions that we are already working towards, and will be reported upon to the city next summer.

Consultation sur le projet de Plan de développement durable du Québec

The Sustainability Coordinator wrote a *mémoire* on behalf of Concordia on Quebec's sustainable development plan and proposed law, which was submitted by the Director of Public Affairs and Government Relations to the provincial government on behalf of the university. To view the plan please visit

<http://www.mddep.gouv.qc.ca/developpement/2004-2007/plan-consultation.pdf>, and to read the *mémoire* contact the Sustainability Coordinator.

Conferences, presentations and workshops

Over the past year the Sustainability Coordinator attended numerous conferences and meetings, and gave many presentations including (listed in chronological order):

- Sustainable Communities conference, Burlington, Vermont (July 2004): gave presentation on Sustainable Concordia Project in Higher Education and Global Responsibility focus area;
- Sustainable Development and Environmental Stewardship ENG 202 class at Concordia (Fall 2004): gave two presentations to two different sections of this course, a mandatory course for all engineering students.
- North-Eastern Campus Sustainability Summit, University of New Hampshire (mid-October 2004) – the first meeting bringing together administrators and faculty working on sustainability issues at campuses in the northeast; became a member of the steering committee;
- Education for Sustainability conference, University of Portland, Oregon (end-October 2004) – gave presentation on the Sustainable Concordia Project;
- CREPUQ meetings: the Sustainability Coordinator has been attending the *Conférence des recteurs et des principaux des universités du Québec* (CREPUQ) environment and sustainable development sub-group meetings which began in early December, where all environmental officers from universities across Quebec gather to discuss different initiatives and projects happening at universities in the province. A few specific subcommittees have been formed, including one on transportation and another on green buildings. The green buildings subcommittee met at Loyola in January 2005 to discuss concerns with the Quebec Ministry of Education's funding for university building energy use; integrated design process; Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED); the Canada Green Building Council and a variety of other topics.
- UQAM environment committee (November 2004): gave a presentation on the Concordia Campus Sustainability Assessment, the implementation process and the SCP structure as students are beginning a campus sustainability assessment at UQAM.
- Northeast Climate Conference, University of Vermont (February 2005) – gave presentations on sustainability indicators and assessment tools and taking the multi-stakeholder approach to campus sustainability and co-facilitated the Canadian strategic planning session;
- Northeastern Sustainable Energy Association conference and meeting, Boston, MA (March 2005);

- Earth Day festival at Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, New York (April 2005): MCed a day-long Earth Day festival, talked about creating ecological and social change on campus and about how to integrate sustainability into your daily activities;
- Wellness Concordia (May 2005): gave two workshops on sustainability at work and at home;
- Quartier Concordia University of the Streets Café (May 2005): moderated a popular education workshop organised by Concordia's Institute in Management and Community Development;
- Sustainable Enterprise Academy, York University (May 2005): an intensive training on overall strategy, skills and tools for implementing sustainability in a business context.

Northeastern Campus Sustainability Coalition: Environmental indicators working group

The Sustainability Coordinator is collaborating on a project with sustainability and environmental coordinators from University of Vermont, Middlebury College, Keene University, Tufts University and Yale University which will be presented in September 2005 at the largest campus sustainability conference in North America, Greening of the Campus IV, which is held every two years at Ball State University. The project involves gathering basic environmental indicator data, using the same templates and documenting the process, to understand the benefits and problems of using universal indicator sets across diverse institutional settings. The experience and variance in data from campus to campus will be explored, and ideas shared on how to use the indicators for education and environmental policy, among other things. This project connects to work the SCP is undertaking on greenhouse gas emissions and to R⁴ Concordia's actions on waste and recycling data collection.

Greenhouse Gas Inventory

Concordia will soon join 32 other universities across Canada, as well as increasing numbers of businesses, corporations, and institutions, conducting Greenhouse Gas Inventories (GHGI) and developing reduction strategies. Canada's commitments to Kyoto must be acted upon and GHGI's are a crucial first step.

The tool being used for calculation at Concordia was developed by Clean Air – Cool Planet (CA-CP), a sizable non-governmental organization in the northeastern United States that creates partnerships in the northeast to implement solutions to climate change and build constituencies for effective climate policies and actions. Their tool is offered free, with support from CA-CP staff and the Sierra Youth Coalition's Sustainable Campuses Project, which operates partially off funding from Environment Canada's One Tonne Challenge Program.

Conducting the inventory requires the collection of a diverse range of detailed information over a period of time, preferably from 1990; however any years can be calculated and projections accurately made. A diverse group of stakeholders are engaged in this process, which is being coordinated over the summer of 2005 by Cameron Stiff, project assistant to the Sustainability Coordinator. The final result of the GHGI will be a comprehensive report, examining the current situation, developing reduction strategies, making accurate and informed projections, setting targets and offering recommendations for emission reductions. The GHGI will offer a visual representation of a complex system, and is a tool that Concordia can add to its kit for progressing towards sustainability.

INITIATIVES DRIVEN BY THE R⁴ COORDINATOR



RETHINK REDUCE
REUSE RECYCLE

R⁴ Concordia (rethink, reduce, reuse, recycle) was created in the summer 2004 by John Molson School of Business undergraduate student Chantal Beaudoin with the collaboration of the Sustainable Concordia Project, the Vice-President Services office and the Concordia Student Union. Chantal became Recycling Coordinator, a work-study position through Environmental Health and Safety, for the university in September 2004. This position was enlarged to R⁴ Coordinator in December 2004 and in August 2005 will be established as a full-time position reporting to the Sustainability Coordinator.

R⁴ is a working group of the Sustainable Concordia Project (SCP). In the realm of sustainability, which promotes social equity, ecological integrity and economic prosperity, R⁴ efforts are focused around environmental initiatives while integrating social and economic components in the process.

The mission of R⁴ is to promote the re-thinking the cycle of consumption and waste in our daily lives and in the operations of the university, as well as reducing, reusing and recycling as much waste at Concordia as possible. It will provide an opportunity for campus community engagement in promoting environmental stewardship at Concordia. The goals of R⁴ are as follows:

- To educate Concordia campus community members (CCMs) on the importance of the four approaches to waste management as indicated in the R⁴ name;
- To encourage CCMs to become actively involved in their recycling system;
- To develop and support initiatives which evaluate and implement waste reduction and recycling practices.

Rethink

In winter 2005, an SCP work-study coordinator began work on the **R⁴ Handbook: A Guide to Recycling and Sustainable Living**, a manual on re-thinking, reducing, reusing and recycling waste at Concordia. It is directed towards the entire university community, including faculty, students, administrators and staff. A potential table of contents, detailed budget, a brochure inviting volunteers to participate in the project and a comprehensive work plan has been developed. Funding will be sought next year for the production of the handbook.

Three sheets of paper are consumed per second at Concordia; this is the equivalent of 10 football fields full of trees cut down in a year for the university alone. In September 2003, this finding inspired SCP coordinator Chantal Beaudoin to act with two University of Montreal students to design the **Recto-Verso Paper Campaign (RVPC)**. The RVPC is a campaign accessible via internet which enables easy implementation inside other institutions (<http://www.recto-verso.ca>), with three goals in mind: 1) to reduce paper consumption on campus; 2) to increase recycling; and 3) to adopt a paper purchasing policy which prioritizes recycled and post-consumer paper. At Concordia, over 1,000 signatures have been obtained from students and faculty members endorsing the campaign. Presently more than 10 universities across Quebec and Canada have adopted the campaign and more than 11,000 signatures have been gathered.

In spring 2005, the R⁴ Coordinator and a student from UQAM developed a **two-page guide on paper reduction strategies and paper purchasing**. This guide will be available on the RVPC website as well as on Aux Arbres Citoyens website (<http://www.auxarbrescitoyens.com>).

Reduce

R⁴ created the **Free Dishes Project** with the help of the CSU's special project fund 2004-2005. In fall 2004, 250 unbreakable, reusable, locally made plates were purchased by R⁴ Concordia. Along with 30 glasses donated by the Concordia Community Solidarity Coop Bookstore, students and groups on campus are now able to rent these items free of charge for events such as conferences, meetings, festivities, and seminars. Groups that have benefited from this service include the Arab Student Association; Food for International Cooperation; the

Forum on International Cooperation; the Hispanic Student Association; the McGill student association; the Muslim Student Association and QPIRG-Concordia. The most significant impact this initiative had was perhaps during Ramadan, when the Muslim Student Association served 500 meals per day over 18 days. As a consequence, 9,000 disposable plates avoided the landfill in Lachenais where Concordia sends its waste.

Similarly, university community members use and throw away at least 250,000, non-biodegradable, non-recyclable coffee cups per year on campus. This generates an enormous amount of waste that goes directly to landfill, which, besides being costly, has many negative environmental and social effects on the surrounding community in Lachenais. **Mugs Reloaded** was created by the R⁴ Concordia in response, with the collaboration of Auxiliary Services and the Concordia Student Union. This campaign aims to sell reusable, recycled content, locally made RETHINK mugs at Concordia and educate Concordia community members (CCMs) on the importance of waste reduction and responsible consumption. The objectives of the campaign are to:

1. Sell and promote the use of reusable mugs at Concordia.
2. Create awareness on the importance of waste reduction and responsible consumption.
3. Reduce the waste Concordia sends to landfill.

Mugs have been on sale since February 2005 in key locations on campus including the Concordia Bookstore, the Co-op Bookstore, JavaU, and at all Concordia food outlets, except Tim Horton's. Since then, over 250 mugs of the 1,500 purchased have been sold. Furthermore, as a result, Chartwells food services at Concordia now offer a \$0.10 discount to CCMs using a re-usable mug for their coffee purchases.



Reuse

Through the **One-Sided Paper Project**, R⁴ collects one-sided paper to make notebooks and notepads for events and groups on campus. One-sided paper boxes are presently found at 11 locations on the SGW campus. Almost 50,000 sheets of paper have been collected since the project's inception in December 2003, enabling almost one tonne of paper to be reused before being recycled. The R⁴ Coordinator trained clients from the West Island Rehabilitation Centre who take care of recycling at Concordia to pick up the paper where possible in late 2004/early 2005. This has allowed for the project to grow substantially since its inception.

In the **R⁴ Collection Depot**, university community members can now donate their unwanted household and office items, such as furniture and old binders, to the Concordia Community Solidarity Coop Bookstore. These items are displayed at the Co-op Bookstore and are offered free of charge to anyone interested.

The last thing to note under R⁴ Reuse is that campus community members can bring their old electronic appliances to the Institute of Electrical & Electronics Engineers (H-717), where parts are fixed and reused.

Recycle

In September 2004, the Recycling Committee was revived after a one-year period without official meetings. Since then, four meetings have taken place and have included members from the Office of the Vice-President Services, Facilities Management, Environmental Health and Safety and the Sustainable Concordia Project student group.

The committee played an important role in advising the R⁴ Coordinator on specific initiatives and campaigns as well as helped organized the very first waste and recycling audits.

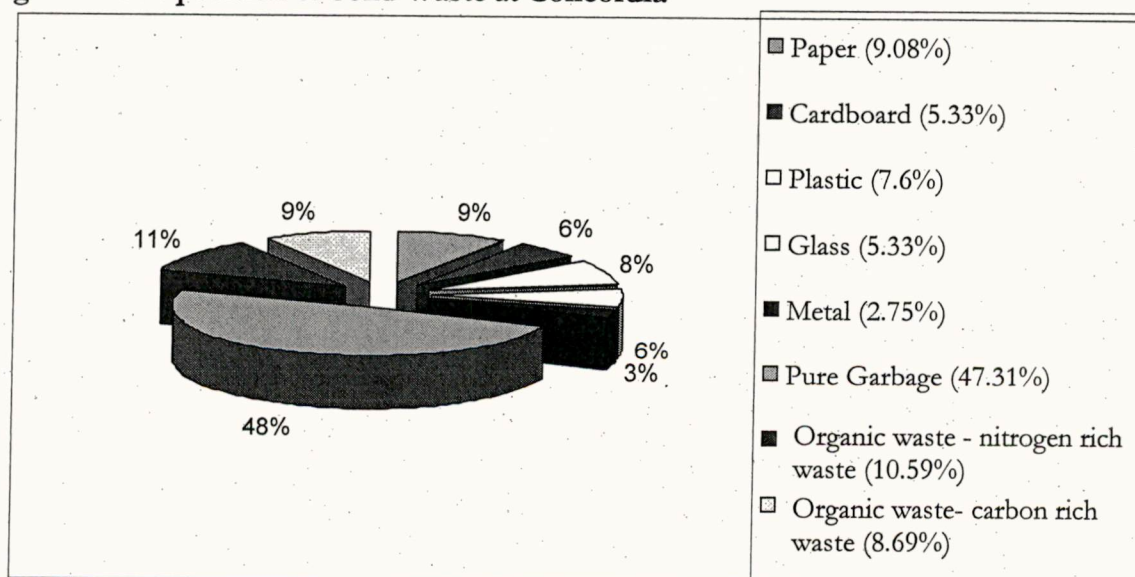
R⁴ offers a large spectrum of recycling possibilities to university community members including: paper/cardboard, plastic/glass/metal, computers/printers, batteries and ink cartridges. Both paper and PVM recycling needs are growing at Concordia. **New recycling locations have been added** over the past year, including the 7th floor of the ER building, AD-130 and the 2nd and 8th floor of the FG building, among others.

A **database of internal recycling requests and complaints** has been initiated. This database has shown the necessity of increasing PVM bins on campus especially in the GM building and in annexes. New additions to recycling services offered this year include Ricoh toner bottles from the photocopier/printer/scanning machines, cell phones and CD-ROMs.

Two further developments in recycling services that are also important to note: **new recycling signage** and the development of a **'how to recycle your Ricoh toner bottles' guide**. The R⁴ Coordinator helped develop new recycling signage for Concordia's paper and PVM recycling receptacles, in conjunction with Facilities Management and design consultants Ideum.ca. The signage will be implemented along with a larger educational program during the 2005-2006 academic year. The one-page 'how to recycle your Ricoh toner bottles' guide will be included in the box when toner bottles are ordered. It outlines the 3-steps to recycling toner bottles and provides pre-paid postage to send the box of empty toner bottles back to Ricoh.

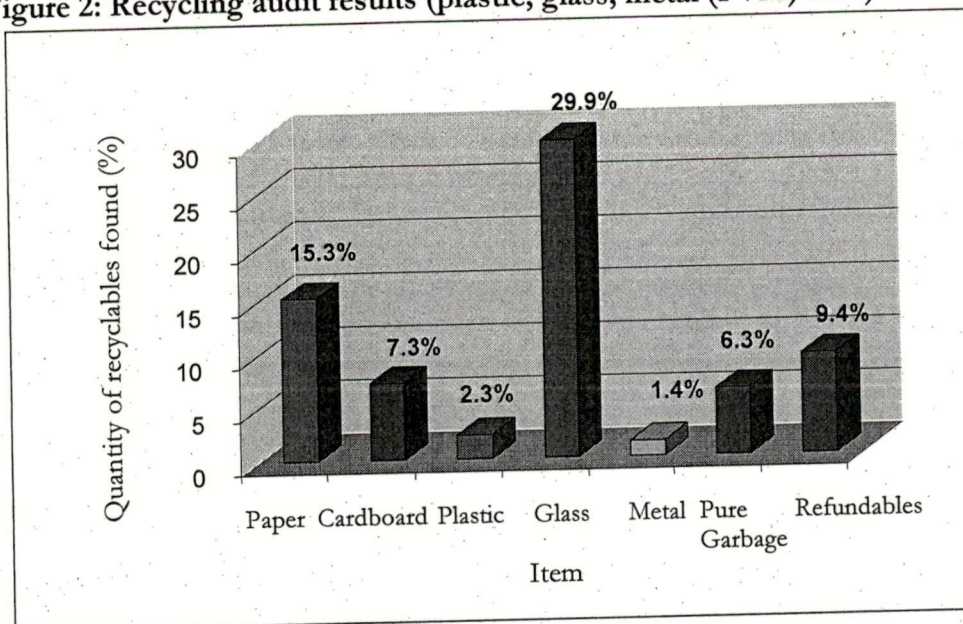
R⁴ organised a **waste audit** of the university in January 2005, the results of which are outlined in Figure 1. Twenty volunteers spent an entire day analysing the contents of 167 bags of garbage samples taken from a variety of locations at SGW and Loyola. The audit illustrated the potential for cost savings and environmental benefits by improving the effectiveness and efficiency of Concordia's recycling system – 30% of recyclable materials end up in the garbage, according to the audit results – and developing a campus-wide composting system for the university. The latter would divert almost 20% of waste going to the Lachenais landfill at \$97 per tonne, and manufacture high-quality compost which can later be used for grounds upkeep at Loyola.

Figure 1: Composition of Solid Waste at Concordia



In March 2005, two students from the Geography department obtained class credits to organize a **recycling audit** of Concordia's paper and plastic, glass, metal (PVM) recycling. The results are illustrated in Figure 2.

Figure 2: Recycling audit results (plastic, glass, metal (PVM) bins)



Goals and Objectives for R⁴ Concordia for 2005-2006

The R⁴ Coordinator has researched and developed a business plan detailing three initiatives to be executed by R⁴ Concordia 2005/2006: a recycling system upgrade and retrofit, a campus composting initiative and a broad university-wide environmental outreach and awareness campaign. With landfill costs increasing and disposal options becoming more limited, a recycling upgrade and retrofit and a campus-wide composting system has the potential to reduce waste by 30% and 20% respectively. The first will consist primarily of improved signage and an increase in the number of recycling bins available on campus, with the goal of increasing usage, improving efficiency, and providing a uniform and easily understood system to campus community members. The campus-wide composting initiative will build a system to collect and compost organic material from a variety of locations at Loyola and SGW through 3 year research project to be conducted by a Concordia Masters student and supervised by three Concordia professors. Apart from significantly reducing landfill volume and costs, opportunities for students to engage in real-world-based learning opportunities outside of the classroom in a field that is increasing in relevance and importance will be available, along with the production of healthy nitrogen and carbon rich soil for use on Loyola grounds.

Funding has been approved by Facilities Management and implementation will begin in fall 2005, alongside a university-wide environmental outreach and awareness campaign.

INITIATIVES DRIVEN BY FACULTY

Graduate Program for Societal and Environmental Sustainability

Professors from all four Faculties at Concordia began working to create the above named Graduate Program at Concordia in fall of 2004. The proposed program would be aimed towards providing students with practical experience in various fields such as ecological economics, global resources, infrastructure development, sustainable land use, green industrial engineering and materials, natural resource conservation, sustainable business, environmental laws and policies, sustainable design, and ecosystem management. The skills obtained would be interdisciplinary and provide a strong foundation for students to work in policy development, governmental organizations, international organizations, industry, and non-government organizations.

A meeting was held with the Provost in October, a final proposal drafted in November and a meeting with the Dean of Graduate Studies' office in December 2004 to discuss potential problems, obstacles and work that is necessary to set up the program. If a go-ahead from the Provost is received, it will take about 2 years to become fully operational.

Civil engineering students

There were several different groups from an Environmental Impact Assessment course in the civil engineering program who conducted projects on various sustainability-assessment related topics such as water consumption, building material recycling and air quality.

INITIATIVES DRIVEN BY THE SUSTAINABLE CONCORDIA STUDENT GROUP

Fee levy

The Sustainable Concordia student group ran a referendum question in the March 2005 elections asking Concordia undergraduate students to contribute 5 cents per credit to the group. The 'Yes' vote passed by a 1,000 vote margin – 'yes' received 1,862, 'no' 896 votes and 714 voters abstained – in response to the question: "Do you authorize the University to collect \$0.05 per credit for the Sustainable Concordia Project, who will use the funds for the purpose of furthering their mandate of promoting environmental, social, and economic sustainability on campus, furthermore the fee would be effective fall 2005 (2005/2) and collected in accordance with the University tuition billing and refund policy?"

Sustainability festival

The funding provided by the New Student Program enabled the Sustainable Concordia student group to organise a very successful Sustainability Festival in September 2004. This day-long event (11am to 11pm), which took place on the Hall Building terrace, promoted and educated about the interconnection between ecological, social and economic issues on campus, and highlighted sustainable initiatives already taking place at Concordia. An estimated 200 Concordia campus community members attended the event and browsed through the information tables of the various groups present including: SCP, Dragonroot Centre for Gender Advocacy, QPIRG Concordia, Blood Sisters, Queer Union, CSU, SPHR, the Concordia Community Solidarity Coop Bookstore, La Coop de la Maison Verte, Frigo Vert, Free Tibet, OXFAM Quebec, Concordia's Engineers without Borders, the Mexican student association, Solar Decathlon as well as the People's Potato who served a delicious vegan lunch on the terrace. Furthermore, a multitude of workshops were offered during the day including: Cuisine du Québec, which prepared typical Quebec dishes for 100 students; Right To Move, which taught basic bicycle repair and maintenance essentials; Make your own Vermicomposter, which allowed 6 campus community members to make their own vermicomposter and permitted others to learn the skills to maintain and make one; the Active Concordian Tour, which visited 10 campus groups; Tenants' Right, which educated on basic tenant's rights in Montreal; and Avenue Verte, which discussed the initiative to make Mont Royal Ave. a car-free pedestrian street. Fly Trap (2pm-3.30pm), INWORD (8pm-9pm) and Euphrates (9pm-10pm) provided live music. In addition, local break-dancers, fire dancers and guitar players gave wonderful performances during intermissions. The collaboration between various on campus and community groups as well as the beautiful weather allowed the Sustainability Festival to be a wonderful success and an event to remember. Recognition goes to two design art students who designed and silkscreened posters on newspaper and flyers on 100% post-consumer paper, as well as Chantal Beaudoin and Bronwen Agnew for their hard work in organizing the event.

Creating social change: Peace and conflict resolution series lecture

The event titled "Creating social change: obstacles and strategies", organized by the SCP in coordination with the Department of Geography, Planning and Environment in mid-September 2004, was a great success. The three panellists, Rinku Sen (social activist from New York), Dr. Eric Shragge (School of Community and Public Affairs) and Yasmin Jiwani (Department of Communication Studies), spoke about their experiences and

different strategies used in working for social change. More than 100 Concordia campus community members and people of the broader Montreal community attended the event. The reaction and interaction between the panellists and the participants was excellent and led to constructive debates, and there was positive feedback from the lecture participants who appreciated the different perspectives of the panellists.

EnAct

The SCP is a member campus of the Sierra Youth Coalition's Sustainable Campuses Project, and as such is also involved in Energy Action, a cross-border coalition of youth and student environmental organizations dedicated to raising awareness about climate change and renewable energy. At Concordia, several initiatives were carried out by SCP under the name of the EnAct initiative to foster the message of hope and health that smarter energy choices present.

Two days of action were held, on October 19th, 2004 (Energy Action Day) and April 1st, 2005 (Fossil Fool's Day), which coincided with actions happening on college & university campuses and in communities across North America, Britain and Central America. Energy Action Day saw tabling in the Atrium of the Library Building with the participation of R4 Concordia, Eco-Quartier, SCP and Environment Canada. Fossil Fools Day was celebrated with the participation of a political street theatre group who performed throughout the campus, taking the message to the halls and streets. Tabling in the 7th Floor cafeteria included the Concordia Animal Rights group CARE, Eco-Quartier, Environment Canada, SCP, R4 Concordia, SYC, the Sierra Club, and the Co-op Bookstore. The documentary film 'Oil on Ice', which details the plight of the Alaskan Coastline in the wake of the Exxon Valdez oil spill in the early 90's, and the subsequent environmental and health issues that have plagued the region since, was screened, and a breakdancing group performed to attract attention and get people excited. Flowerpots were available for decoration and soil and seeds were provided for planting. In the evening the street theatre group performed a series of skits at the campus bar Reggie's, and a quiz show was hosted with prizes such as thermometers, energy efficient light bulbs and candles.

EnAct collaborated with Engineers Without Borders – Concordia to organize a series of seminars on renewable energy technologies (RETs) in March. Each seminar brought together three or four panellists with different perspectives to talk about the impacts and applications of RETs in Canada and the developing world. EnAct also collaborated with überCulture, a Concordia student group focused on critical analysis and action on corporate activities, to screen the film "The End of Suburbia", which details the development of the suburban culture and its relationship to the oil industry.

Socially Responsible Investment

In the fall of 2004, an SCP student coordinator met with the Executive Assistant to the Vice-President of Institutional Relations to discuss a Socially Responsible Investment (SRI) Policy for the Concordia Foundation. This was in follow-up to meetings last year; the Executive Assistant to the VP has since been researching SRI although it has not been a priority. She is interested in exploring some form of shareholder action through the Foundation, requiring companies to outline their decision making process. Also, a modest one or two percent of the investments could be placed in an official Ethical Fund. Investing in new community ventures, such as renewable energy in Quebec, wasn't discussed, but it seems a possible direction.

The executive of the Concordia Student Union was interested in an SRI policy but it is not a priority since CUSACorp does not have money to invest.

Sustainable Business Conference

Concordia's first Sustainable Business Conference, held in March 2005 in the D.B. Clarke theatre, brought together over 250 participants. Attendees included students and faculty members from various universities, including HEC, McGill University, UQAM, York University, Université de Montréal and Concordia, as well as corporate delegates from a variety of industries. Attendees were very pleased with the conference: according to the results of a survey circulated at the conclusion of the SBC, 74% felt that they had gained many useful tools

and knowledge and 79.6% stated that they would attend next year's edition of the SBC. Overall, the organization, the speakers, the website, the food and location were ranked very positively. One of last year's organizers has set up an internship through Concordia's Co-operative education program to coordinate SBC 2006.

It is significant to note that the SBC is Concordia's first carbon neutral event. The electricity used at the conference plus the attendees' travel and accommodations resulted in an estimated 17.42 tonnes of CO₂ emissions. To counteract this, Concordia, Selectpower and Sky Generation put 19,592 kWh of Selectwind wind energy into their power grid. Each kWh of Selectwind offsets the greenhouse gas emissions caused by generating the same amount of electricity in a coal-fired power plant.

For more information please visit www.sbc2005.ca.

Concordia Greenhouse Project

There has been a substantial amount of work over the past year to turn the greenhouse on the roof of the Hall building into a non-profit organic greenhouse offering space to groups who are dedicated to sustainability initiatives. Within the university, the greenhouse is uniquely positioned to facilitate education and skill-sharing outside of the classroom. It seeks to be a multi-disciplinary, innovative space that invites community collaboration in urban ecology, scientific development and social improvement. The project is founded on principles of mutual respect, promoting equality among project members, and the community at large.

Facilities Management has thus far funded asbestos removal, pesticide decontamination and an architectural assessment of the space including studies on the greenhouse envelope, greenhouse/building regulations, heating and lighting, improvements on energy performance and rainwater collection. Active student coordinators are working on funding proposals to a variety of foundations for the remaining costs: a full-time greenhouse technician, tools, workshop materials and honoraria workshop facilitators, among other things. A funding partnership has been developed with Alternatives, a non-governmental organisation in Montreal who is presently working with Santropol Roulant on a rooftop garden project on the Plateau-Montreal. Ideally the greenhouse will become operational in Winter 2006.

KemFree Campaign

The KemFree Campaign is a student-run initiative examining the health, environmental and social issues surrounding the feminine hygiene industry. Since its launch in November 2004, the campaign has attempted to spread awareness amidst the Concordia student community regarding health hazards, environmental pollutants and gender politics issues related to the usage of mainstream disposable pads and tampons.

The campaign's objectives are two-fold; along with its educative mission, it aims to encourage a reconsideration of purchasing habits at Concordia. KemFree proposes a replacement of the current feminine hygiene products in campus vending machines with non-toxic alternatives which would be chemical-free, organic cotton, disposable products.

Actions towards reaching these objectives include data collection and analysis on the Concordia student body's consumption patterns, vis-à-vis pads and tampons, through independent survey research and petition circulation. Although statistical analysis of survey results is not yet complete, approval for the availability of non-toxic alternatives seems extensive. Therefore, we hope Concordia will opt for change and encourage other universities and large institutional buyers to follow our lead. Hence, one of our more ambitious long-term goals is to make a significant enough dent in the feminine hygiene market that manufacturers are finally forced to reconsider consumer needs and place prioritize women's health in tandem with the profit motive.

Conferences and presentations

Energy Action Summit – Washington, DC

Cameron Stiff, SCP work study coordinator, attended this summit in January 2005, representing the Sierra Youth Coalition and Sustainable Concordia. The meeting brought together representatives from youth and student environmental and climate change action groups across North America for four days of strategic planning, community building, skill-sharing and personal growth. Energy Action was officially formed in June 2004, following several combined actions by various youth environment non-governmental organisations and student organizations. The goal of Energy Action is to unite a diversity of perspectives in an alliance that will strengthen the student and youth clean energy movement in North America, leveraging our collective strength for a clean, just, and renewable energy future. Energy Action has four pillars: community, campus, corporate, and political. For more information please visit www.energyaction.net.

2nd Annual Conference of Environmental and Sustainability Student Coordinators – HEC, Montreal

Organized by members of HumaniTerre, the environmental student group at HEC, the University of Montreal's Business School. This two day conference was attended by Cameron Stiff, representing Sustainable Concordia. He gave a presentation on initiatives undertaken at Concordia to reduce GHG emissions, and highlighted other SCP activities. Also present was Melanie MacDonald, the Quebec Regional Coordinator of Sierra Youth Coalition's Sustainable Campuses Project. Representatives from Environment Jeunesse (EnJeu), UQAM, McGill (Downtown and MacDonald Campuses), University of Quebec at Rimouski, University of Quebec at Chicoutimi, University of Quebec at Trois Rivières, and Rosemont College were in attendance. Together they drafted a charter for 2005/2006 with strategic goals of conducting GHG emissions inventories on their campuses and facilitating the development of innovative energy policies for their universities.

3rd Annual NorthEastern Climate Conference – University of Vermont, Burlington, Vermont

Ten Concordia students were joined by 11 other students from McGill, the University of Ottawa and Guelph University to attend this conference in February, organized by the Climate Campaign, a young environmental non-governmental organisation operating in the northeastern United States. Cameron Stiff, an active member of the student group, helped organize transportation to the conference and gave a workshop on Strategic Campaign Planning, as well as co-facilitating the above-mentioned workshop on taking the multi-stakeholder approach to campus sustainability.

Panel discussion at UQAM

In October 2004, the R⁴ Coordinator participated in a panel discussion at UQAM regarding waste reduction initiatives and university environmental policies. This panel discussion was part of *La Semaine Québécoise de la Réduction des Déchets* and included speakers from Rosemont College, a research agent from the Vice-Rector of human resources at UQAM and a student from the department of political science at UQAM.

Corporate Social Responsibility Conference

The R⁴ Coordinator and students from the SCP were asked to speak at a Socially Responsible Conference organized by students of the International Business Association at the John Molson School of Business. Speakers present at the conference included employees from EDC, Home Depot and Air Canada, among many others. An SCP student coordinator promoted the Sustainable Business Conference and another spoke about the initiative for a Socially Responsible Investment policy at Concordia.

Visioning, planning and evaluation

Important to mention in terms of process are the many intensive visioning, planning and evaluation sessions organised by the Sustainable Concordia student coordinators during 2004-2005, in September, January, February and April. These meetings consisted of brainstorming plans for the semester and year, campaign and initiative strategising, laying out the structure, roles and responsibilities of coordinators, and evaluating effectiveness of work, among others.

External communications

As the word regarding Concordia's actions towards becoming a more sustainable institution spreads, more and more individuals from all across North America are contacting SCP for information, advice or with requests to speak at conferences, lectures, and seminars.

Information request/question	Institution/Person	Date
Information on the SCP	Carleton University / Canadian Federation of Students	Sept 2004
Questions on paper purchasing at Concordia	Greenpeace	Oct 2004
Process in community organisation	Centre for Community Organizations (Montreal-based non-profit)	Nov 2004
What Concordia has achieved (deliverables)	University of New Brunswick, Professor	Dec 2004
Tour of one-sided paper project implementation facilities	UQAM students	Jan 2005
Inquiry about recycling facilities and signage	Trent University student	Jan 2005
Information on CD-ROM recycling	University of Calgary	Feb 2005
Visit and inquiry about the CCSA 2003	Dalhousie University, Sustainability Coordinator	March 2005
Research on sustainability assessments and coordinators	Miami University, Ohio. Researcher	March 2005
Sustainability reporting in universities – what is the state of the art?	Ball State University, Professor	March 2005
Experiential learning community on campus sustainability. Information needed on sustainability coordinator position	University of New Mexico, Professor	March 2005

Media Coverage on the Sustainable Concordia Project and R⁴ Concordia

Media	Date	Title
Concordia's Thursday Report	Sept 2004	First sustainability co-ordinator appointed at Concordia
The Link	Sept 2004	Real frosh for the real world: Campus groups organize first ever alternative frosh
The Link	Sept 2004	Concordia not so sustainable?
The Link	Nov 2004	Breaking the bathroom taboos
The Link	Nov 2004	The day no books were sold: Co-op Bookstore celebrates Buy Nothing Day with trivial pursuit and refusal to sell books
The Link	Dec 2004	Water without Tang please: Moratorium on industrial pig farming soon to expire
The Bridge	Winter 2004/2005	A Sustainable Future
Concordia's Thursday Report	Jan 2005	Sustainability ideal sparks new policies and projects
The Link	Feb 2005	Corporate Socialism: raising the bottom line Sustainable business conference planned for Concordia
Concordia's Thursday Report	Feb 2005	Business student turns green, saves university
The Gazette	March 2005	Profit the priority: Charney American Apparel CEO an iconoclast: Sustainable business conference hears how it boils down to providing a good job
The Link	March 2005	Sustainable Companies increase Profits: writer Conference instructs environmentally-sound practices
The Link	March 2005	Profit and sustainability not exclusive ideas: Sustainability is where the money's at, says American Apparel co-founder Charney
Concordia's Thursday Report	March 2005	Sustainable Business Conference draws 250
The Link	March 2005	A decade of education for sustainable development, full steam ahead
The Link	March 2005	Sustainable transport: Attached to urban planning and public policy, an interesting option
The Link	March 2005	Out of the ground and onto the roof: New roots for the Greenhouse Rejuvenation Project this fall
The Link	March 2005	Perk up your sustainability by going local
The Link	March 2005	Surviving education's slash and burn: Equal access for all is necessary
The Link	March 2005	Engaging students in matters of renewable energy SCP holds Concordia-focused events